



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING 7:00 P.M.

May 22, 2011

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room in Town Hall.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride - Absent
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff in attendance:

John Salomone –Town Manager
Ann Harter – Finance Director
Jamie Trevethan – Executive Assistant
Linda Irish-Simpson – Clerk of the Council

III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Retirement – Lt. John Johnson

Mayor Woods moved the following:

WHEREAS, Lieutenant John Johnson was appointed to the position of Police Officer for the Town of Newington on August 8, 1988, promoted to Sergeant in 1992 and promoted to Lieutenant in 2007; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Lt. Johnson has served the residents of Newington in numerous capacities, including Field Training Officer, Mid-State Traffic Enforcement Supervisor, Training Sergeant, Certified Police Instructor, Detective Sergeant, Senior Firearms Instructor, Mid-State Narcotics Supervisor, Fatal Accident Investigation Supervisor, and Emergency Response Team Member, Team Leader and Commander; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Johnson has received many commendations and awards for exemplary job performance throughout his career, most notably for rescuing an elderly resident from a smoke-filled apartment in 1989, his actions in connection with an investigation of three burglaries in 1990, a motor vehicle stop which resulted in the apprehension of a suspect in possession of a large quantity of heroin in 1992, his diligence during a high-risk confrontation with an armed suspect

in 1994, his skill in handling a barricaded individual in 1997, and in addition has received a Letter of Recognition for his service as Acting Lieutenant in 2002 and a Distinguished Service Award as a member of the Emergency Response Team in 2006, among many others; and
WHEREAS, Lt. Johnson has been involved with the education and training of police officers throughout the State as an Adjunct Instructor for the Connecticut Police Academy and an Instructor for the Capitol Region Police Chiefs' Association; and
WHEREAS, Lt. Johnson has served as Temporary Acting Police Chief on several occasions from 2008-2011; and
WHEREAS, Lt. Johnson has received many letters of thanks and appreciation from Town residents and other area Police Departments; and
WHEREAS, Lt. Johnson will retire from the Newington Police Department on June 1, 2012 after 24 years of service;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Lt. John Johnson for his professional service and dedication to the Town and wishes him the best in his retirement.

Lt. Johnson thanked the Town Council members, members of the Police Department and the people of the Town. He stated it was wonderful to work in Town and with all the members of the Newington Police Department and Town staff.

Councilor Cohen thanked Lt. Johnson for everything he did over the last 24 years. Councilor DelBuono congratulated Lt. Johnson on his retirement and stated that everyone involved in or with the Police Department in Newington knew Lt. Johnson. She stated that whenever she had had to talk to Lt. Johnson in the past, he always had handled these situations with care and compassion and for that she thanked him.

Councilor Klett congratulated him on his retirement, which will be a big loss for the Police Department and Town. She congratulated his entire family and said that he was the type of cop she would want to have backing her own son up. She said his commitment to the Town went beyond a paycheck.

Mayor Woods agreed with the other Councilor's comments and said that he had set a fine example for the men and women in the Police Department and had set the bar very high. He wished him in luck in whatever he did in the future.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Madeline Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: thanked Lt. Johnson for all he did in his service to the Town and found his compassion refreshing.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Thanked the Mayor for the information he forwarded to her regarding the DOT and the Busway. She was interested in finding out what was happening and getting updates on a regular basis from the Town Council.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May be Taken)

A. ICE Program Funding

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

WHEREAS, Section 75 of Public Act 11-57 establishes the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchase Incentive (ICE) Program; and
WHEREAS, the ICE Program provides financial assistance to two or more municipalities for the joint acquisition of (A) equipment that a municipality uses in the performance or delivery of a required governmental function or service, and (B) a vehicle used in the maintenance of public highways or bridges and facilities located within the limits of public highways or bridges; and
WHEREAS, the Towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield have expressed an interest in acquiring and sharing equipment for highway maintenance and emergency response;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Newington Town Council supports the advancement of A Multi-Town Bucket Truck Cooperative with the Towns of Berlin, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield with financial assistance from the Intertown Capital Equipment Purchasing Incentive Program.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

- B. Upcoming Building Projects
 - 1. Newington High School Music Wing
 - 2. Newington High School Career/Technical Education Wing
 - 3. John Wallace School Career/Technical Education Wing
 - 4. Martin Kellogg School Career/Technical Education Wing
 - 5. Town Hall Roof
 - 6. **(Amended) Councilor Cohen moved the following:**

RESOLVED to add an amendment to the agenda to include #6 under Consideration of Old Business to add the tennis court renovations to the OCR.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Lou Jachimowicz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer of the Board of Education gave an overview of the above listed projects. The first project would be a complimentary project that went with the OCR project that had been operating over the last several years. The music area has a need for tremendous amounts of storage for instruments, props and costumes. The band room will be leveled and risers removed. To store all the equipment a small addition will be built. A major conveyor system is planned for the back of the stage similar to a dry cleaners carousel. The third part of the project, for consideration in next year's budget, would be the possibility of air conditioning the auditorium.

Items 2,3,4 are the same project except for the locations. The State requires a separate grant application for each location. These projects would create a contemporary career technical program at the above schools. The middle schools would focus on the STEM area, which are the high growth areas and where students would be able to focus on math and sciences areas. The high school auto shop was transformed into a technology area. Two major areas of expansion at the high school will include expansion of the culinary arts and a multi-media broadcast studio for use by students.

Item 5 involves the reroofing of the east wing of Town Hall, which includes the Transition Academy and the Board of Ed personnel. The rate of reimbursement for the project will be half of what it would be for a totally academic project.

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council authorizes the Newington Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Newington High School Music Wing Expansion and Alteration Project

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the School Code Compliance Project Building Committee is hereby charged as the building committee with regard to the Newington High School Music Wing and Expansion and Alteration Project.

The motion as seconded by Councilor Bottalico and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Newington High School Music Wing Expansion and Alteration Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and the motion passed 8-0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council authorizes the Newington Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the following projects:

**Newington High School Career Technical Program Renovation Project
John Wallace Middle School Career Technical Program Renovation Project
Martin Kellogg Middle School Career Technical Program Renovation Project**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington School Career Technical Program Renovation Project Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the following projects:

**Newington High School Career Technical Program Renovation Project
John Wallace Middle School Career Technical Program Renovation Project
Martin Kellogg Middle School Career Technical Program Renovation Project**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following members to the Newington School Career Technical Program Renovation Project Building Committee:

Name	Address	Party	Term
NTC REP:	Jay Bottalico 37 Valley View Drive	R	NTC Term
NTC REP:	Clarke Castelle 167 Connecticut Avenue	D	NTC Term
BOE REP:			BOE Term

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for following projects:

**Newington High School Career Technical Program Renovation Project
John Wallace Middle School Career Technical Program Renovation Project
Martin Kellogg Middle School Career Technical Program Renovation Project**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and the motion passed 8-0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council authorizes the Newington Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Newington Town Hall Roof Replacement Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and the motion passed 8 -0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee is hereby charged as the building committee with regard to the Newington Town Hall Roof Replacement Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and the motion passed 8-0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Newington Town Hall Roof Replacement Project.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and the motion passed 8-0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Councilor Cohen moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the School Code Compliance Project Building Committee is charged as the building committee with regard to the Newington High School Tennis Courts renovations.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

C. Discussion: Blight Ordinance

Mayor Woods indicated this item would be tabled so it could be reviewed and discussed with the Town Attorney.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Year-End Transfers

Ann Harter reviewed the areas in the budget that needed funds and areas that had funds available. She indicated that the fire pumper engine originally was planned to be a lease purchase but to save money on interest and to help the scheduling of next year's projects for pay as you go, she wanted to use the amount in the special contingency to finance an outright purchase of the engine. Another area discussed was a heart hypertension claim and additional funds would be needed in the employee benefit account. The third item was an increase in the pay for call and stipends for volunteers in the Fire Department. The last area was in the Police Department for overtime. Mrs. Harter stated there were some departments that were seeing savings which included the General Services account (heat and utilities), Engineering Department due to a vacancy, Highway Department due to a mild winter, Town Planning Department, Human Services and the Senior and Disabled Center had experienced a positive trend for Dial-A-Ride, and grounds maintenance. She indicated that it all should balance out.

Councilor Klett asked Mrs. Harter about the heart and hypertension claim and Mrs. Harter indicated it was a full time employee who had retired and that the claim would not go against the health benefits fund since it was a judgment claim and considered an employee benefit.

Councilor Bottalico asked about the total of Police overtime (approx. \$66k) and Mrs. Harter indicated she would be meeting with the Police Chief to get a firmer figure on the overtime.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

- A. Central Connecticut Health District
 - 1. Accept Resignation of Enzo Pistrutto

Councilor Klett moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Enzo Pistrutto from the Central Connecticut Health District Board of Directors, in accordance with a letter dated May 5, 2012.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent).

- 2. Appoint a Replacement (TBD)

VIII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Klett moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$15,291.46 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. May 8, 2012 – Regular Meeting

Councilor Borjeson stated his comments regarding the Busway should have indicated Sandy Frye and not Sandy Nafis.

Councilor Bottalico moved to accept the amended minutes and the motion was seconded by Councilor Nagle. The motion was passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent).

X. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

John Salomone said he was recently notified from the Government Finance Offices Association of the United States that Newington received a Certificate of Conformance for the financial reporting for the last fiscal year, which was the highest honor you could get.

Councilor Klett stated that she had received a letter from former Mayor Randich honoring the contributions of former Mayor Mazzocchi after the last meeting. She did not have it to read into the record at that time.

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Castelle had attended the Library Board meeting and indicated \$6k was raised for the 5k race, the book sale was a success with \$15k raised and Donna Miller would be putting together a long range plan for the Library and which would be presented at the next Council meeting.

Councilor Borjeson indicated there was a groundbreaking ceremony in Hartford for the Busway. He had talked to Sandy Fry and said she would have a presentation for the Town Council in the near future. She would be able to explain how the Busway fits into the entire picture of high speed trains, property values surrounding the various locations where similar projects have been done and how the planning works.

Councilor Klett stated the TPZ should be included on the Council's agenda to discuss the various properties along the bus route and identify the type and potential for development and use. She felt that eminent domain was a possibility, which would supersede any of the Town's plans. Councilor Borjeson indicated that he was the liaison to the committee and wanted to have some discussions on pertinent issues. John Salomone stated that once the meeting room was completed downstairs the Council could take advantage of the audio-visual enhancements in the room for the presentation.

Councilor Bottalico agreed with Councilor Klett and felt the Council needed legal advice on the Busway. He wanted to have an explanation from the Town Attorney regarding eminent domain and if the Town would have jurisdiction once the land was taken by the State. Mayor Woods said he wanted to find out from the TPZ and Town Planner what land would be available and what they believe the uses would be.

Mayor Woods announced that a part time Economic Development Coordinator had been hired and would start on May 23. He is Andy Brecher and was a former Deputy Commissioner and then Commissioner of Economic Development for the State. He felt the Town was blessed with hiring someone with extensive experience.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Madeline Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She had several comments 1) she was unsure of what a positive trend in the Dial-A-Ride program at the Senior Center meant 2) She indicated she has seen several areas in Town that

were in need of mowing and wondered who was in charge of it. Mrs. Kenny indicated perhaps some of the excess monies could be put into mowing of Town property. 3) Busway: there seemed to be a contingent of people who thought it was the best thing since sliced bread; however, she felt there was a large contingent that felt it was a pig in a poke. 4) She thought it was a good idea to have the TPZ attend a Council meeting and wanted to have an in-depth discussion of opposing views at the same time regarding a realistic view of what the Busway would mean to the Town.

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: She thanked Councilor Klett for her comments regarding the TPZ attending the Council meetings. She felt the State had a vision on how the Busway was to look and felt that Newington had to have a similar vision for the Town, since Newington would be the most impacted of all the towns. She felt it was important to determine what the impact would be on the East/West corridor through Town,.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She thanked Mr. Salomone on changing the "LICE" sign to "Police" sign and felt it would be a good idea to have directions on how to get into Town Hall posted. She has attended several meetings downstairs and felt that better signage was needed for people attending meetings. Mrs. Lyons indicated that during a recent Charter Revision meeting, most of the minutes were lost due to equipment failure. She would like to see digital recorders used for all meetings. Mrs. Lyons also indicated that she had asked for a sign to be posted on New Britain Avenue to indicate the park entrance for the Clem Lemire complex. She said the Busway came up at Conservation Commission meeting and Economic Development Commission meeting and these commissions should be included in Council discussions.

XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Cohen reminded everyone about the Memorial Day Parade at 10:30 a.m. with the Town Hall ceremony at 12 p.m.

Councilor Klett offered her condolences to Jack Kelliher's family who lost their mom, Kathleen, a few days ago. Anyone familiar with the family knew they made a tremendous contribution to the Town. She agreed with the comments made regarding the State's vision for the Busway but it was Newington's vision that was lacking. Councilor Klett agreed with Mrs. Lyons that the TPZ, Conservation Commission and the Economic Development Commission should participate in a Council discussion. She asked Mr. Salomone to keep the Council updated on any meetings involving the Busway on a regular basis.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor Castelle. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McBride-Absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council